

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 2662

Examiner: Donald L. Mills

Serial No.: 09/545,272

Filed: April 7, 2000

In Re Application of: Senthil Sivakumar

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING FLOODING IN BRIDGED
NETWORK

37 C.F.R. §1.312 AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance dated April 21, 2006, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks, the method comprising:

passing a packet to a filtering module, and indicating a MAC address associated with the packet to the filtering module;

determining whether the received MAC address exists in a table or needs to be added as an entry to the table;

if the MAC address already exists in the table then incrementing a packet count field, the packet count field associated with the MAC address already existing in the table and indicating how many packets have been sent to the MAC address;

if a quiet flag associated with the MAC address is not set to true within the table and a flooding timer associated with the MAC address has not expired, the flooding timer initially set to a first predetermined value and decremented periodically, then broadcasting the received packet to a plurality of interfaces; and

if the quiet flag associated with the MAC address is set within the table and a restart timer associated with the table has expired, the restart timer initially set to a second predetermined value and decremented periodically, then:

resetting the quiet flag in the table to false; and

setting a flooding timer to an initial value; and broadcasting the received packet to a plurality of interfaces.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said first predetermined value and said second predetermined value are set by a network administrator.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein, an entry is made in the table if no mapping between the MAC address and a port exists.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the entry is removed from the table after a port associated with the destination MAC address replies to the broadcast flooding of packets.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein an entry is made in the table indicating a number of packets that are directed at the destination MAC address.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the entry indicating the number of packets directed at a destination address is used to determine which entry to delete from the table if the table becomes overpopulated with entries.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer program product containing instructions which, when executed by a computer, controls flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks, by:

passing a packet to a filtering module, and indicating a MAC address associated with the packet to the filtering module;

determining whether the received MAC address exists in a table or needs to be added as an entry to the table;

if the MAC address already exists in the table then incrementing a packet count field, the packet count field associated with the MAC address already existing in the table and indicating how many packets have been sent to the MAC address;

if a quiet flag associated with the MAC address is not set to true within the table and a flooding timer associated with the MAC address has not expired, the flooding timer initially set to a first predetermined value and decremented periodically, then broadcasting the received packet to a plurality of interfaces; and

if the quiet flag associated with the MAC address is set within the table and a restart timer associated with the table has expired, the restart timer initially set to a second predetermined value and decremented periodically, then:

resetting the quiet flag in the table to false; and

setting a flooding timer to an initial value; and broadcasting the received packet to a plurality of interfaces.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said first predetermined value and said second predetermined value are set by a network administrator.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, insert an entry in a table if no mapping between the MAC address and a port exists.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, remove the entry from the table after a port associated with the MAC address replies to the broadcast flooding of packets.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, make an entry in the table indicating a number of packets that are directed at the destination MAC address.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~method-computer program product~~ of claim 28, further comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, examine the entry indicating the number of packets directed at a destination address to determine which entry to delete from the table if the filter table becomes overpopulated with entries.

30. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

Claim 29 has been amended to correct an editorial error in the preamble of the claim. No new matter has been added.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-586-9500.

Respectfully submitted,
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

Date: June 1, 2006

/john w. crosby/

Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
1657 Hwy 395, Suite 202
Minden, NV 89423
(775) 586-9500

John W. Crosby
Reg. No. 49,058